

In this week's Kukini



■ A Hickam Airman is fleet on his feet and plays a rocking guitar, too **A2**

News Notes

Scholarship pageant tomorrow — The Women's History Month Hickam AFB Teen Scholarship Pageant is scheduled Saturday, March 28, the Officers Club lanai from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 per ticket. For information or tickets call SMSgt Lisa Boothe at 449-8504 or Carole Reynolds at 291-7236.

Dine at 'The Gathering Place' — Free dinners will be offered for the dorm residents on Tuesday March 31 at 6 p.m. at the Gathering Place in King Hall. Sponsored by the Catholic and Protestant Women of the Chapel. For information, contact Chaplain (Capt) Choi or SrA Bloor at 449-1754

Warrior Run — The next Warrior Run is Friday, April 3. Units must be in formation no later than 7 a.m., Honor Guard/National Anthem will begin at 7 a.m. For safety reasons, guidon will not be allowed during run. Form up on the grassy mall area between 15 AW HQ Bldg and Freedom Tower, four columns facing 8th Street Main CDC and SAPs will open at 6:30 a.m. Please direct all questions to Capt Domonic Bonello at 618-660-8173.

Summer hire program — The Hickam AFB Civilian Personnel Flight is currently recruiting for the 2009 summer hire program. The program targets students who are at least 16 years old and are currently enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree program at the high school, vocational school, community college, university or graduate program level. Applications will be accepted by the CPF until Friday, April 17, 3:30 p.m. For additional information please contact Ms. Debborah Tang, 449-0113 or Ms. Leilani Corona, 449-0134. The announcement to include application procedures are located on the Hickam AFB public website at <http://www2.hickam.af.mil/units/civpersonnel/index.asp>.

CPF closed — Civilian Personnel Flight will be closed on April 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for an official function. If you need additional information, call 449-0122.

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Use your heads and wear your helmets

By **Chris Aguinaldo**
Hickam Kukini editor

Ernie Doak sat at the Hickam Skate Park last week, watching his son Noah, 7, tricking on the ramps.

"When you think what can happen when kids are skating, letting them ride without a helmet is just irresponsible," said the father, shaking his head. "They're just not aware of what could happen to them."

But outside the skate park on the base, there have been skaters, many children, who have not been using helmets, said 15th Airlift Wing Vice Commander Col Dean Wolford.

"The last thing we want to do is break the news to a parent that their son or daughter has been injured when an accident could have been easily avoided simply by wearing a helmet," he said.

In fact, Mark Kantorowicz, Ground Safety Manager points out that according to AFI 91-207, for non-motorized transportation devices — including

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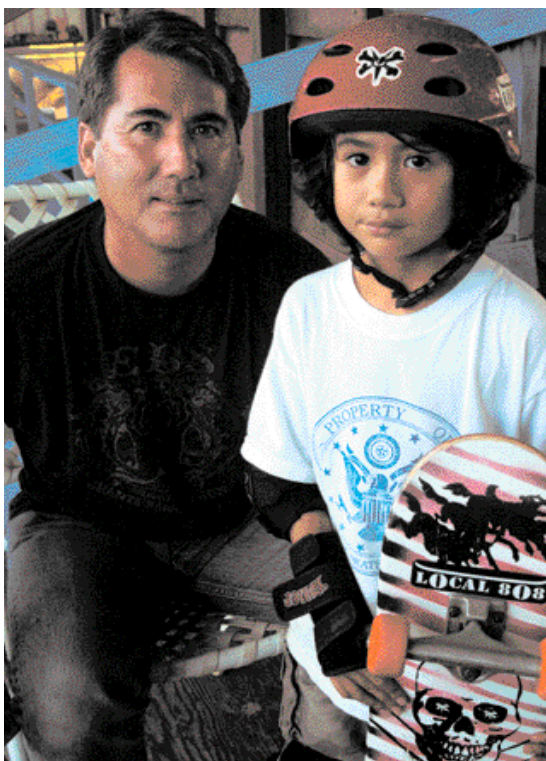


Photo by Chris Aguinaldo

Hickam Skate Park patrons Ernie Doak and son Noah believe in using helmets, especially after seeing someone get hurt.

JPAC helps bring closure as lost WW II pilot is buried at Arlington

Story and photos by **Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Chlosta**
NCOIC, JPAC Public Affairs Office

Navy Ensign Robert Tills was born on Mar. 9, 1918. He died Dec. 8, 1941. He was just 23 years old. He was the pilot of a Navy PB4 Catalina Flying Boat aircraft. He liked to play guitar. He left behind a beautiful fiancée, his college sweetheart who he was just weeks away from reuniting with, when he was killed in action. He left behind two younger sisters and his parents. He also left behind a mystery — what had happened to Tills' remains?

The day after 'the day that will live in infamy'

The day after the brazen attack on Pearl Harbor, Tills' plane was moored alongside another Navy PB4 in Malagal Bay, in eastern Mindanao, Philippine Commonwealth, before Japanese planes known as "Zeros" zoomed in for an attack.

Tills and his Radioman, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Albert E. Layton, took up defensive positions on their aircraft. Tills fired his aircraft machine gun at the Japanese fighter planes as they descended.

Tills was killed when his plane was strafed with machine gun fire by the Japanese Zeros. His PB4 was engulfed in flames in just a matter of seconds. Layton, who witnessed Tills getting hit, was able to jump from the burning aircraft only moments before it sank. Tills was not recovered from the submerged aircraft. Tills was the first Navy Officer lost in the defense of the Philippine Islands during World War II.

'He always wanted to fly'

"Well of course, they never got over it," Tills' sister, Jean Aplin, 78, said about her parents' reaction to her brother's death.

"That's probably the memory I have most of that time was the grief of my parents. I just remember so, so



An Army Old Guard escort platoon leads a horse drawn caisson carrying the remains of Navy Pilot Ensign Robert Tills during his funeral on March 23 at Arlington National Cemetery. Tills is followed by a Navy Honor Guard casket team, and family and relatives.

well, how they grieved over this."

"He always wanted to fly," Aplin said. When he died, "of course I was just a little girl you know, but he was my big brother. He was my hero. I loved him."

Tills was 12 years older than Aplin, he also had another sister, "about five or six years younger."

Aplin's sister, who has since passed, took Tills death, "well, very badly," Aplin said. "I'm the only one in the family [left]."

"He was declared missing," Aplin said. "We didn't know where he was or if the body had been recovered, if it was buried over there, we didn't know."

Aplin said that at some point they were told a witness (Layton) had seen him get shot.

"I don't remember exactly how we found out," Aplin said. I don't know if somebody came in person or if it was a telephone call."

"It was quite a while there, we didn't know what had happened and of course never did know what had happened until now," Aplin said.

His fiancée

"He was finally coming home after being gone for two years," Vicki

Lee, 89 said. "He was ready to come home that's the sad part. He was a perfect gentleman. He did take me up in a plane before he left for the Philippines."

Lee and Tills met at Northwestern College before he graduated with a degree in aeronautical engineering and joined the Navy to attend flight school and fly planes.

Flying, "that was his life," Lee said.

"The reason I am thinking of this is that he was going to come home that December and he and his fiancée, they were going to be married," Aplin said, several

days before the funeral. "She [Vicki] was just a beautiful girl. I loved them both and we did find her. She is alive and well and will be at Arlington."

Aplin and Lee had lost touch over the years but were able to reconnect through the media interest in the story generated over the Internet. They were reunited in person for the first time in many, many years

moments before the funeral service.

"So now ever since I found out about her," Aplin said. "I just keep thinking of the two of them together and how nice it would've been."

Until they're home

The mission of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command located at Hickam AFB is to search for, identify and return the remains of fallen Americans in the countries past conflicts.

Tills' puzzling case was finally solved by JPAC in 2008.

Tills' nephew, Aplin's son, Dave Aplin, 53, said, "The effort their making is just extraordinary. The extent to what JPAC went through when I read the report, the sensitivity and the amount of detail they went through has really been impressive."

He said, "to have the type of attention they've been given has meant a lot to my mom."

JPAC identified Tills' remains and material evidence more than 66 years after his death. Partial remains, pieces of Tills' plane and some of his personnel items were unilaterally turned over by the Philippine government. Tills' was found by local divers and

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Assessment team reviews compliance

Submitted by **15 CES**

The 15th Airlift Wing will be hosting a PACAF Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ESOHCAMP) Assessment Team here March 30 to April 3.

ESOHCAMP is designed to review compliance with local, Air Force, and federal regulations, instructions and law as we execute our primary missions.

These assessments are completed annually; however every third year an external team from Headquarters PACAF conducts the assessment. The other two years, Team Hickam completes an internal assessment. The assessment covers all activities on Hickam Air Force Base including tenant organizations.

The 25-member PACAF ESOHCAMP team will be led by Mr. George Fujimoto, Chief, Asset Management Division, PACAF/A7A. The team consists of experts from across the spectrum of the ground safety, occupational health, and environmental fields and includes personnel from HQ PACAF, other PACAF bases, Navy Region Hawaii and contractors.

"We look forward to the assessment," said Ronnie Lanier, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight Chief. This will help us identify ESOH areas where improvements are needed and will support funding to close any noted gaps."

ACTION LINE

Bicyclists and pedestrians reminded of restricted zones on Hickam AFB

Comment: Just a comment with regard to base safety. During the past few weeks I've noticed bicycles and runners on O'Malley Blvd. Perhaps base safety should remind the population that bicycles and pedestrians are restricted from using this road.

Response: Thank you for bringing this to our attention, and also for your recommendation. You're correct, bicycles and pedestrians are restricted from O'Malley Boulevard and there are signs posted indicating they are prohibited.

Safety issues are briefed twice a month at the newcomers "Aloha Ohana" and also articles are periodically published in the *Hickam Kukini* as reminders to the base populace.

I have had the Wing Safety Office include a map highlight-

ing areas where bicycles are prohibited (see right).

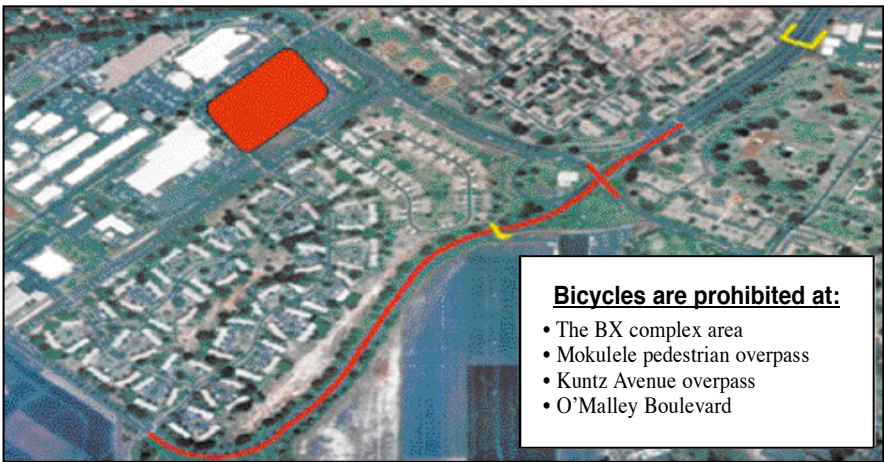
Again, thanks for your concerns as the safety of the base populace is my number one concern. If you have additional concerns please don't hesitate to call the safety office at 449-0795.

The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, contact my commander's Action Line. If you would like me to get back to you, send your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing.

The Action Line e-mail is: 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.



Base bicycle safety



Graphic courtesy of the 15 AW Safety Office

Don't know where you can ride your bike on Hickam Air Force Base? Check the highlighted areas on the map. Bicycles are prohibited at the BX complex area, Mokulele Pedestrian overpass, Kuntz Avenue overpass and O'Malley Boulevard. For those interested in more biking tips, there's a limited number of the state "Bicycle Regulations and Illustrated Safety Tips" in the Safety Office. The booklet can also be picked up at any DMV office. Call the safety office at 449-0795.

Got Hickam News?



Why not share it? E-mail your story idea or press release for Hickam Kukini to:

caguinal@honolulu.gannett.com

Diamond Tips

Men's ties — Men's ties will be the polyester herringbone twill tie with service dress coat; are mandatory with the service dress uniform, semiformal and long-sleeved shirt; must not have a design or sheen; are two to three inches wide and either tapered at the center with a pointed end or untapered with a square end; may be polyester, wool, synthetic or blended fabric; and may be woven or pre-tied.



Questions? Contact your First Sergeant

Deadline for article submission is end of day Friday for next Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300-500 words in length, and e-mailed to caguinal@honolulu.gannett.com.

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Kukini: Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

PACAF stresses fire safety as Hickam holds prevention week

By Staff Sgt. LuCelia Ball
PACAF Public Affairs

Pacific Air Forces has developed a fire prevention initiative to take place March 9 to April 17 in response to several recent fires at bases throughout the Pacific.

"We have accepted risk in infrastructure for many years in this command and in the Air Force," said Gen. Howie Chandler, PACAF commander. "However, we will not accept risk in [the] health and safety of our people. It is our responsibility to keep ourselves, our families and our co-workers safe from unnecessary risk."

The PACAF Safety and PACAF Installation and Mission Support offices are coordinating efforts to push

the initiative.

"The Installation and Mission Support focus will be facilities that are not compliant with the fire code and the operation and maintenance of alarm systems, fire suppression systems and fire hydrants," said Chief Master Sgt. Troy Edwards, PACAF command fire chief.

PACAF Safety provided Wing Commanders fire safety background information and asked commanders to pass the information along to their base personnel.

In the coming weeks, each Wing Commander will designate a Fire Prevention Week within the initiative timeline. Here at Hickam, it is scheduled on April 6-10.

The objectives of the designated week are to increase fire prevention

awareness and ensure Airmen inspect both their work centers and home for fire hazards using a fire safety checklist provided by their chain of command.

"We would like each PACAF member to pay particular attention to power cords, power strips and surge protectors," said Col. Russ Quinn, PACAF Director of Safety. "Over time, the electrical cords we use both in our work centers and at home become worn and could present a serious fire hazard."

The most recent fire in the command was at Yokota Air Base, Japan. It was caused by a power cord that had become worn after many years of use. The cord overheated and sparked a very significant fire.

"This small piece of

equipment, something we all take for granted every day, was the direct cause of a fire that destroyed a 40,000 square foot building," Colonel Quinn said.

PACAF has experienced fire losses both at work and in homes on and off base. The top five causes of fires in PACAF are unattended cooking/cooking related, electrical malfunctions; and improper disposals of smoking materials and candles.

"By providing each Airman a home fire inspection checklist, we sincerely hope to prevent any further fire loss here in PACAF," Colonel Quinn said. "Focusing now on education and risk mitigation is an investment that will enhance the safety of our Airmen, their families and our infrastructure."



Photo by Chris Aguinaldo

'Johnny K' goes all the way

Staff Sergeant John Kukan of the United States Air Force Band of the Pacific - Hawaii just had a great month. He recently received his award for being the top Air Force Male finisher in the Honolulu Marathon with a time of 3:27:17. "I didn't know until I got an e-mail from Gen. Chandler's office. I went over and got this plaque," he said. The koa plate is seen in the background, as he practices guitar.

Not only that, but the guitarist/ukulele player also learned recently that he will be receiving his CCAF in Music. But SSgt Kukan isn't just taking it easy. He and the other numerous talented band members are practicing new songs for a Big Island tour next month.

When he's not busy taking advantage of the Air Force's generous educational opportunities, he's a Red Cross volunteer in the 15th Medical Pharmacy.

"SSgt Johnny Kukan is the epitome of the AF professional we have serving in the USAF today," said CMSgt Sharon Johnson, Director of the Band of the Pacific - Hawaii. "He goes above and beyond in every duty I assign him. He's a talented musician and NCO and I look at him and see a bright future in our career field."

Hickam vehicles need base stickers again

By 2nd Lt. Jason Smith
15 AW Public Affairs

Leg warmers, parachute pants, mullets, Trapper Keepers and “Members Only” jackets are probably not back in style at Hickam Air Force Base, but base decals, DD Form 2220s, are all the rage.

Hickam AFB drivers need to go “retro” in 2009 by sporting the vehicle stickers that have recently disappeared from fashion.

In late 2007, then Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley ended the use of “base decals” on all Air Force installations, according to Air Force Link. The decision was based on cost, a lack of utility and long-term threats facing bases. The stickers had been around the Air Force since the 1970s and formerly served a practical purpose.

Although the Air Force cancelled

the use of the stickers, other branches of service kept them. Effective Jan. 30, 2010, vehicle registration with the 15th Security Forces Squadron Pass and Registration Office is mandatory. That means any driver entering anywhere on Hickam AFB or Naval Station Pearl Harbor, where the stickers are already required, must have a base decal.

Adding the stickers to Hickam AFB vehicles should ease travel to other military installations on the island.

Rather than wait for a rush of customers on Jan. 29, 2010, the 15 SFS has implemented a plan to get everyone registered in a timely fashion. Master Sgt. Stephen Veeder, 15 SFS Pass and Registration NCOIC, says there are easy steps for getting in and out of his office with a decal and no hassles: pre-register, and let the staff know you’re pre-registered, have all of the required documents and show up during the appropriate times.

“First, you should pre-register,” said Sergeant Veeder. “It will save you a considerable amount of time when you show up. It’s also important to let us know when you’re called to the counter that you are pre-registered. If not, we might enter you in the system twice.”

After being called to the counter, drivers must have all of the required documents, and they must be current. The documents are a military ID card, a driver’s license, vehicle registration, proof of insurance and proof (paperwork) of a Hawaii safety inspection.

Sergeant Veeder said anyone driving on base now should have these documents anyway, but people need to be aware that simply having a current safety sticker on the vehicle won’t serve as proof of a safety inspection.

“We need the actual paperwork for the inspection,” said Sergeant Veeder. Probably the most important step for

hassle-free registration is showing up at the right time of the day, according to Sergeant Veeder.

“We want people to come in for their base decals between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday,” he said. “One to 4 p.m. is reserved for contractors, and it gets very busy here. We’re a first-come, first-served office. You can come in after 1 p.m. for your sticker if you want to, but you can expect a lengthy wait.”

Swatch watches, penny loafers and break dancing — not cool ... pre-registering, having appropriate documents and arriving at pass and registration from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. — definitely hip.

Pre-registration must be done from a government computer by logging onto <https://sfmis.csd.disa.mil/SFMIS5/jsp-docs/registration/regRequest.jsp>. For questions about registration, contact 15 SFS Pass and Registration at 449-9394.

Crime Scene

Shoplifting at BX

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member of a Civilian/DECA employee attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$28 without rendering payment. The individual has been barred from Hickam AFB.

Shoplifting at BX

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member of a Soldier attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$2.37 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked for one year and has been barred from Hickam AFB.

Shoplifting at BX

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family member of a Sailor attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$7.95 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked for one year and has been barred from Hickam AFB.

Citation Total for March 16-23

Two abandoned vehicle notices
Five civilian traffic citations
18 moving traffic citations
Zero non-moving traffic citations



Photos by MSgt Bobby Duncan, 15 CES

Catching an ‘Eagle’

An “Eagle” was caught at the recent annual recertification of the Hickam AFB barrier engagement system. Left, Team Hickam personnel prepare the BAK 14 for an aircraft engagement. Above, a Hawaii Air National Guard F-15 Eagle catches barrier at 35,000 pounds, at 109 knots for another perfect engagement.

JPAC, from A1

fishermen in Malalag Bay in late 2007 and early 2008. JPAC flew an anthropologist to the Philippines to secure the remains and bring them home for identification.

“At this point anything is possible, the extent to which JPAC and others are going to identify remains and bring them back and when they are identified the sensitivity that’s shown is really quite overwhelming Dave Aplin said.

“There is no question in my mind at this point that it [JPAC] is [a worthy mission] after seeing the affect it has had on my mom and my family to bring closure after so many years to something like this really does mean a lot, it really does,” Dave Aplin said.

After identification, Aplin was notified in the summer of 2008 about the return and identification of her brother’s remains.

“Well, they called, the MIA/POW. I don’t remember his name now, called and told me,” Aplin said. “And then they came to the house about four or five months later. They brought it [the report] along when they came and it had extensive reports on this.”

“Well, it’s very sad of course and yet I am very, very happy that we finally know and that he is finally coming home.”

For the families still waiting, her advice is, “Well, I guess I’d say never give up hope, that you might hear something and have closure.”

Going home

On March 19 Tills’ remains were escorted from JPAC Headquarters in Hawaii to Virginia by Navy Reservist Lt. Cmdr. David Raine 42, Navy Casualty Division, Navy Personnel Command, Tenn.,



Navy Chaplain Lt. John Miyahara reads says a final few words during Navy Ensign Robert Tills’ military funeral. Tills was only a few weeks away from returning home to marry his fiancée when he was killed on Dec. 8, 1941 at the age of 23.

to be returned to his family for burial.

“I jumped at the opportunity,” Raine said. “This is the first one I’ve done [for JPAC].”

Raine has two connections to Tills they are both originally from Wisconsin and they are both Navy pilots.

“[It is] somewhat special he is from my home state,” Raine said. “I think it was one of the best assignments I ever had. It’s a great honor to bring him home. I knew quite a bit about JPAC through attending family update briefs.”

Arlington

On Monday on a crisp, clear day at Arlington National Cemetery Tills was buried with full military honors, only two weeks after what would’ve been his 91st birthday. The ceremony included a missing man formation flyover by Navy F-18 jets and an achingly beautiful playing of taps by a Navy bugler. Aplin was there and

so was Lee.

Seated side by side, Aplin and Lee watched as the Navy Color Guard folded the American flag for presentation to Aplin by the Navy Chaplain at the conclusion of the graveside ceremony.

“She [Vicki] is the only one here besides me that remembers him very well so there certainly is a connection,” Aplin said. “We both knew and loved Bob.”

“I was shocked [to hear about Tills’ identification] and to still be alive,” Lee said. “At ninety I’m just lucky to be here. It’s a closure for me to think they found his body after all these years and that they found me”

“I was really surprised,” Aplin said, “and I think it’s wonderful they still are searching and looking for the missing men. I thought that was great that they finally found him.”



Left, Jean Aplin, 78, and Vicki Lee, 89, attend the reception that followed the military funeral for Aplin’s brother and Lee’s former fiancée.

Reception

Aplin’s many relatives, including children and grandchildren and her sister’s children and grand children, cousins, in-laws, everybody in the extended family it seemed was at Arlington.

Even with the trees still bare of leaves and the grass green and tinged with brown

and sadness in their hearts, the post funeral reception at a hotel across from the State Department seemed like a long overdue family reunion.

Aplin’s kids and grandkids and extended family had a profound awareness of Tills’ memory growing up.

“They knew all about him,” Aplin said. “We have pictures

of course and his picture albums they’ve seen. So they were very well aware of that fact that he was missing.”

Dave Aplin said, “At one of our family gatherings my mom had come with this report. She said they have found his remains, they would be bringing them back and he would be buried at Arlington. And at that point in time, we all said, well you just tell us when that’s gonna happen and we’ll be there. Today, it was incredible, just amazing.”

‘It’s like I’m in a dream’

As the post funeral reception began to wind down and the room swirled with storytelling voices, Aplin reflected on the chapter in her family’s history that was now coming to a close.

“I feel overwhelmed, I feel like I’m in a dream,” Aplin said. “But I’m so happy, I’m so happy to see all our relatives, friends we haven’t seen in a long time and I’m just amazed that we had such a turnout for this.

“I’m just real proud of them [the military] and I’m glad they are doing this for him and as I said, it’s like I’m in a dream” Aplin said. “I can hardly believe it and I love it. I think it was wonderful that they honored him that way and that so many people came.”

Aplin said her advice for the families still waiting for answers is,” not to ever give up hope, we waited sixty seven years. It’s wonderful the way they’re still looking for those that are missing.”

(This is the first in a series of articles spotlighting JPAC.)

Hickam Airmen among PACAF personnel helping the underprivileged in Thailand

By Staff Sgt.
Angelique Perez
18th Wing Public Affairs

PUK TONG CHAI, Thailand — Members from medical groups all over the Pacific Air Forces including Hickam AFB teamed up with Thai and Singaporean medical teams to provide much needed health care to the underprivileged in Thailand.

Dental and optometry teams dedicated their time and skills setting up a make-shift clinic at the Barr Lum Nong Kaew, a village grade school here, to provide medical care for both the young and old who are unable to afford basic medical necessities.

“We’re treating those who are in need,” said Tech. Sgt. Aimee McLaren, a dental hygienist at the 18th Dental Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan, “to a population who might not normally have access to care or might not have the means to pay for dental care.”

The lines seem endless as hundreds of people filled the schools awaiting the free health care they would normally have to live without, added Sergeant McLaren.

The dental teams worked side-by-side with dental teams from both Thailand and Singapore providing check-ups, cleanings and a large amount of tooth extractions due to long periods of time without access to dental



U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Angelique Perez

Capt. Tara Jayne, an Optometrist from the 15th Aerospace Medical Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, checks a patient's eyesight during a joint and multinational humanitarian mission to provide much needed ophthalmologic care to Thailand's underprivileged during Cope Tiger 2009 on March 16.

clinics and insufficient oral care.

Sergeant McLaren said that it's a big change from the day-to-day care given to military members and their dependents at home station because most of those patients have very good oral health.

“Doing our part to help those in need makes me feel very good,” said the ser-

geant.

While the dental teams work, an optometry team does their best to provide on-the-spot vision correction. First they test a patient's eyesight for near or far sightedness, infections and other visual abnormalities. Then the optometrist writes a prescription for the needed eye-drops, or appropriate corrective glasses which are given

right there in a classroom turned optometry office.

The teams have traveled all over Thailand over the past few weeks during the Cope Tiger 2009 exercise setting up temporary clinics in schools all over the country.

Along with the health care provided, computers and other school supplies were donated. Large water jugs

were on the top of the list so the children could have a safe, permanent water supply in the classrooms.

Additionally, a monetary donation of 30,000 baht, about \$1,000 were donated from the military members participating in Cope Tiger 2009.

“We asked for donations and collected over \$4,400 dollars from the 800 military

members here, which was quite amazing,” said Maj. Dan Warnock, a legal advisor in the 613th Air Operations Center at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. “So we asked what kinds of things we could bring here to donate that will benefit the school.”

The major also worked with the Thai liaison to set up many of the outreach programs.

The five desktop and three laptop computers were donated through an Air Force rehabilitation process which sanitizes and distributes out-of-date computers that are no longer being actively used to give away on humanitarian missions. The keyboards and monitors, however, were bought with the donated money from Cope Tiger personnel.

“It's a great feeling to be able to be involved in this,” said the major. “We have such a blessed situation in the United States and it's good to be able to use some of our money and skills and donate them.”

The medical and dental personnel involved came from Yokota, Misawa, and Kadena Air Bases in Japan as well as Anderson AB, Guam, and Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, as part of a humanitarian relief with their RSAF and RTAF counterparts to perform Medical Civil Action Plan visits in Thailand.

Celebrate ‘Earth Hour’ on Saturday

Submitted by Hickam
Community Housing

Hickam Community Housing (HCH) invites its residents to join more than 240 cities around the world for the annual global climate event, Earth Hour, on Saturday, March 28.

“We participated for the first time last year and hundreds of families joined us,” said HCH Community Center Director Kawehi Morrison. “It’s exciting to see how one event can impact energy reduction and make a global statement, and it’s a great opportunity to educate our families about sustainability.”

Cities across Europe, the U.S. and Asia plan to “go dark” for one hour tomorrow night. HCH encourages residents at Hickam and Bellows AFS to turn off their lights and join them on the HCH Community Center lawn at 7:30 p.m.

Then enjoy the entertainment. A family movie night is planned, powered through the Community Center that gets most of its electricity from photovoltaic panels on the roof.

“We really want residents to come out in the spirit of family and community and do something great for the environment,” said Morrison.

For more information about Earth Hour, log on to www.hickamch.com.

NEWS NOTES, From A1

Hickam Honor Guard — The Hickam AFB Honor Guard is looking for members to join. If you want to experience new challenges, expand your career in the Air Force, and achieve a new sense of pride in your Service, then the Honor Guard is for you. We are looking for Airmen that are motivated, have passed their most recent Physical Fitness Test, and are able to commit to one week out of a month for one year. Our next Initial Training Class is April 6-10 at bldg 1714. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For questions contact MSgt Michael Kormos, HG Chief Administrator at 448-0955 or Michael.kormos@hickam.af.mil.

Understanding Your Kids True Colors — The Airman and Family Readiness Flight will be hosting the “Understanding Your Kids - True Colors” workshop on April 8 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. for parents and kids (ages 10 and up). If you are like most parents, seeing eye to eye with your kids can be difficult. This class will offer strategies in learning how to better understand yourself, value the differences in your children and enhance communications at home. Call 449-0300.

FTAC Class 09-3 enrollment closed — Enrollment for FTAC Class 09-3 (March 30- April 10) is closed. Enrollment for Class 09-4 (April 13-24) is ongoing. Contact the FTAC staff at 448-4643 or e-mail MSgt Jeffrey Tisher at jeffrey.tisher@hickam.af.mil to enroll Airmen or if you have any questions.

Report irrigation/watering issues — There are numerous irrigation systems throughout Hickam AFB from manual to fully automated. If anyone observes any broken or misdirected sprinkler heads, excessive watering or ponding call CE Service Desk at 449-3100, manned 24/7 to report the location. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us conserve water, our precious resource.

Golf cart rental increase — The cost of renting a golf cart at Mamala Bay Golf Course on Hickam will go up \$1. Effective April 1, the cost will raise from \$12 to \$13. The rate increase helps cover the cost of the new GPS system now available on the carts. The course is the first on a military base on the island to offer GPS and the rental cost is only \$1 higher than competitive courses that do not offer GPS. Please call 449-2300 for details.

Join the Wet Hens — The Hickam Harbor Wet Hens are now taking registration for its Spring US Sailing Basic Skills Course. This 10-week course meets Thursdays 9 a.m. to noon starting April 9. Cost \$80. Contact Hollie Bogue 664-4621 or Jan Workman 664-3512 to sign up.

Don’t ‘tax’ yourself at last minute — Call the Hickam Tax Center at 448-0713 to schedule an appointment. The Tax Center will also be accepting walk-ins every day during the duty week, however, wait times are very unpredictable so plan

on getting there early.

Speak up with Toastmasters — Want to improve your public speaking skills? Hickam Toastmasters gives you the skills and confidence to effectively express yourself in any situation. We meet every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the PACAF Historian Conference Room (first floor of the PACAF HQ Bldg 1102 Wing F). Contact MSgt Manny Martinez at 449-8911 or 1Lt Dui Mora at 448-3011 for more information.

Library needs volunteers — Hickam Friends of the Library currently seeks volunteers. Support of HFOTL makes an outstanding bullet and is a great support reading in your military community. Also HFOTL is accepting donated media (books, magazines, VHS, DVD, CD, etc.) on a regular basis and can offer donation receipts upon request. If you would like more information or would like to be added to the HFOTL e-mail list please, contact ian.larsen@hickam.af.mil.

OPSEC — Please keep Operations security in mind at all times. Shred info when no longer needed. Use caution when discussing information openly. Increase use of secure phones. When in doubt, use secure communication — anything on NIPR can be viewed. If required to bug-out, secure all classified information. DO NOT confirm or deny critical information. Direct all media questions to 15 AW/PA at 449-1525.

HELMETS, From A1

skateboards, kick-scooters and roller-skates — helmet wear is “required on AF installations.”

In other words, not using a helmet while skateboarding on base is against the rules.

Base Commander Col Giovanni Tuck — who has personally stopped violators — and Chief Command Master Sergeant Thomas Westermeyer have both voiced their concerns for skateboarders’ safety.

“A skater plus a skateboard equals using a helmet,” urged Chief Westermeyer.

Noah Doak learned that lesson firsthand, when he saw another skateboarder drenched in blood a few years ago.

“It was my friend’s grandfather,” he recalled. “He skated without a helmet, fell and cracked his head open.”

“The cut was big,” Doak continued, looking at his dad, as he remembered the memory vividly. “Blood was pouring all over the place.”

The elder Doak shook his head grimly, watching his son describe the gory scene and said that incident “really did it for Noah and he promotes using helmets.”

“Look at what happened to that actress. She got a bump on her head and died,”



Photos by Chris Aguinaldo

Above, Heimana Reynolds wears a helmet while at Hickam Skate Park. He also says he makes sure to wear one outside while using his skateboard. His dad says that parents must make sure that their children are wearing helmets, comparing not using a helmet to not wearing a seat belt while driving in a car. Right, Brandon Kays of the Hickam Skate Park says helmets are readily available on the base.

said the concerned parent.

Natasha Richardson died last week after a ski accident when she hit her head. According to reports, she said she had felt fine but died days later, due to a epidural hematoma.

According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, even mild brain injuries can cause serious, long-lasting problems and the best way to protect yourself and your family from brain injuries is to prevent them from happening in the

first place. A helmet is recommended whenever riding a bike, inline skates, skateboards and other activities in which falls could possibly hurt the brain.

But clearly, not everyone follows the rules, even here at Hickam. Some might say it cramps their style or messes up their hair to use a helmet.

“That sounds pretty dumb,” said Hickam Skate Park user Heimana Reynolds. “I want to be wearing my helmet. If you



fall, you can smack your head not wearing one.”

Dad Matt Reynolds said “I’d feel like my son’s unsafe without them.”

He adds that parents who knowingly let their kids skate without helmets are “careless, not supervising their children.”

“It’s like not using a seat belt in your car when it’s available,” said the father.

And helmets are not in short supply at Hickam, said skate park concessionaire Brandon Kays. The BX, toy

stores and department stores have helmets that start around \$20, he reports. At the skate park, good helmets are sold for around \$30, which he said are better than the “generic ones.”

But even those off brands “at least break your fall,” said Kays. “I’ve hit my head but I’ve been able to shake it off” thanks to helmets.

And unlike the wooden floors of the skate park, the base has “cement on the ground and the road is not perfectly paved.”

“Your head is the most sensitive part of the body. At least get something on your head to protect you,” he implored.